(b) if so, the quantity and value of import and export made during each of the said years; and

(c) the reasons for which Government gave their approval for import as well as export from the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cotton was imported as well as exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99, as given below:—

Cotton Imports into India:

	Qty.(MT)	Value (Rs. lakh)
1997-98	8823.62	7894.67
1998-99(P)	55523.00	37160.41

P= Provisional
Note: Data for financial year 1998-99 includes cotton wastes.
Source: Directorate General, commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), Calcutta, Import Volume (March 1998 & 1999 issues)

Cotton Exports from India:

	Qty.(Lakh Bales)	Value (Rs. lakh)
1997-98	3.4937	31885.31
1998-99	1.01253	8671.62

Note: Including spill over shipment of previous year.
Source: Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.

(c) Since early 90's the Government of India has been pursuing the policy of removing restriction on International Trade. Import restrictions on cotton has been removed as per the same policy. Cotton import is under OGL now. Cotton exports from the country are undertaken with a view to retain India's continued presence in the international market, to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers and to earn valuable foreign exchange.

Import and Export of Pulses under OGL

†1837. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have put the import as well as export of pulses in the category of OGL to meet the requirement of pulses in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both, import and export of the pulses is made from the country; and

(c) if so, the quantum of pulses imported and exported alongwith the value thereof in years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Pulses are classified under Exim Code 07.13 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import items, 1997—2002. Import of all pulses except that of Australian Lupin Seeds and toxic pulses is free. However, export of all type of pulses including lentils, grams, beans and flour made therefrom except those in consumer packs upto 5 Kg. is restricted.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The quantity and value of the import and export of pulses, for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto November, '99), are as follows:

Import of Pulses

Year	Quantity (in '000tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1998-99	313	40452
1999-2000 (upto November, '99)	137	18324

Export of Pulses

Year	Quantity (in '000tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1998-99	101	21874
1999-2000 (upto November, '99)	127	27706

(Figures are provisional)

[Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta]

Decline in Tobacco Trade

1838. SHRI K.KALAVENKATA RAO:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: